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### Grizzly basketball team ranked 12th in the nation defensively

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GRIZZLY BASKETBALL TEAM RANKED 12TH IN  
THE NATION DEFENSIVELY

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MISSOULA--

The magic number is 10 this season for the University of Montana Grizzly basketball team. The Grizzlies are attempting to continue their reign as the top defensive team in the Big Sky Conference -- a feat they have accomplished in the last nine conference seasons.

Currently Montana ranks 12th in the nation, giving up an average of 58.3 points per game. The Grizzlies are scoring 63.6 points a game. The national leader in defense is St. Peter's College of Jersey City, NJ, which is allowing 47.9 points a game.

Montana holds the Big Sky defensive record, set in 1978-79. That season, coach Mike Montgomery's first, the Grizzlies gave up 60.3 points per contest. The Grizzlies were ranked fourth in the nation that season.

"Defense has always been a key to the success of Grizzly basketball," said Montgomery, whose team is currently 12-6 overall and tied with Montana State and the University of Idaho for the conference lead with a 5-1 record.

"We stress defense in our program, and have had a lot of success with our ability to defend people," he said. "It takes an unselfish team attitude to play good defense. It also takes a lot of hard work. We are striving to improve our defense each week, building up to the conference playoffs."

Montgomery's teams have been nationally ranked in defense all of his three years as head coach at Montana.

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